

White Box – How good are your observational skills?

Pre-Lab Questions:

1. What tools can be used for making observations of evidence? List three.
2. Which senses should you be using to make observations of evidence? Why those?
3. Look at the picture to the left and list three observations.



Procedure:

Science involves making an observation and then explaining it.

There are 30 containers with different objects.

1. Take one container and **DO NOT OPEN IT**.
2. **Record** the number found on the outside of the container.
3. Start to make observations about your container:
 - a. List **TWO adjectives** or descriptions for the sound made when shaking the container **FAST**
 - b. List **TWO adjectives** or descriptions for the sound made when shaking the container **SLOW**
4. When instructed, switch containers with a neighbor. **REPEAT** steps #2 & #3 with the new container.
5. When instructed, return the container to the original person and get yours back and compare observations between the two containers.
6. Finally, there is a match to each of the containers.
 - a. **FIND** your match by repeating observations (shake, listen, feel). **Record** your match #.
 - b. As a pair, agree on **FOUR** observations and write them down.
 - c. Based on the observations and discussion with your partner, **infer** what the object in the container is. **Record** your answer.
 - d. Open your containers to determine if you were correct. **Record** your results including the actual item in your container and whether you had a correct match or not.

Analysis:

1. Which of your five senses did you use for most of the observations? Why?
2. Which of your five senses did you not use when making observations? Why?
3. When making observations of evidence at a crime scene, which sense(s) would you use most often? Give an example for each.
4. It was intentional that you were not told ahead of time what could have been in your container. How might your initial observations have been different if, from the beginning, you knew what the object could have been (if I had given you a list)? Why?
5. Why do you think you were told to just record observations and not identify the object in the beginning?